

ALL IN COLOUR - MAKES LEARNING A JOY

Once Upon a Time

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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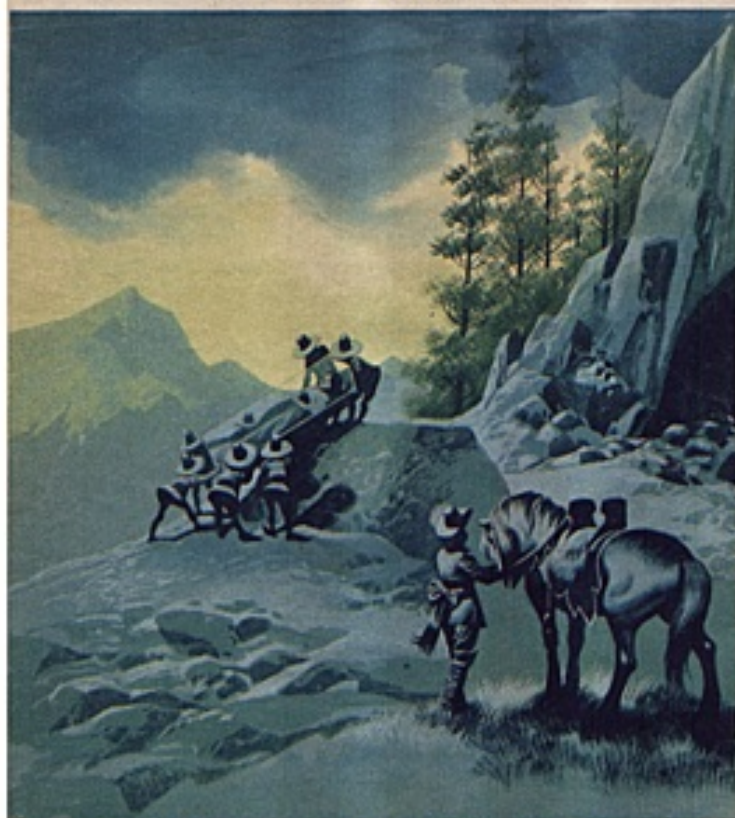


SNOW-WHITE and the Seven Dwarfs



1. Because she had taken a bite out of a poisoned apple given to her by the wicked Queen, poor Snow White did not breathe or move. She lay in a glass coffin on a mound of earth outside the mountain-mine of the Seven Dwarfs. Bare-headed and with tears in their eyes, the little men sang a sad hymn of sorrow and their voices brought a young Prince on to the scene.

2. "Poor sweet girl—how beautiful she looks," sighed the handsome Prince. "What happened to her?" When they had ended their hymn of sadness, the Seven Dwarfs spoke in hushed voices and told the Prince about the wicked Queen, Snow White's step-mother. "Twice she tried but failed to harm Snow White," they said. "But now, at the third try, she has unhappily succeeded."



3. The Prince looked at Snow White for a long time. "Although she is not alive, I have fallen deeply in love with her," he said to the Seven Dwarfs. "I cannot bear to be parted from her, so please let me take her to my palace." The sad little men were so touched by this that they agreed and picked up the coffin.



4. But as they did so, the glass coffin slipped from the heap of earth and one end jolted on the ground. It was this sudden bump that jerked the piece of poisoned apple out of Snow White's throat and she sat up and looked around. "Wonder of wonders, she lives!" shouted the Seven Dwarfs. "Snow White is alive!"



5. The Prince rushed forward and, gathering Snow White in his strong arms, he lifted her on to the saddle of his horse. "What I said about falling deeply in love was true," he said. "Now I shall take her to my palace—and Snow White shall become the loveliest Queen of all." How the Seven Dwarfs capered around with joy, filling their hats with flowers and cheering loudly.

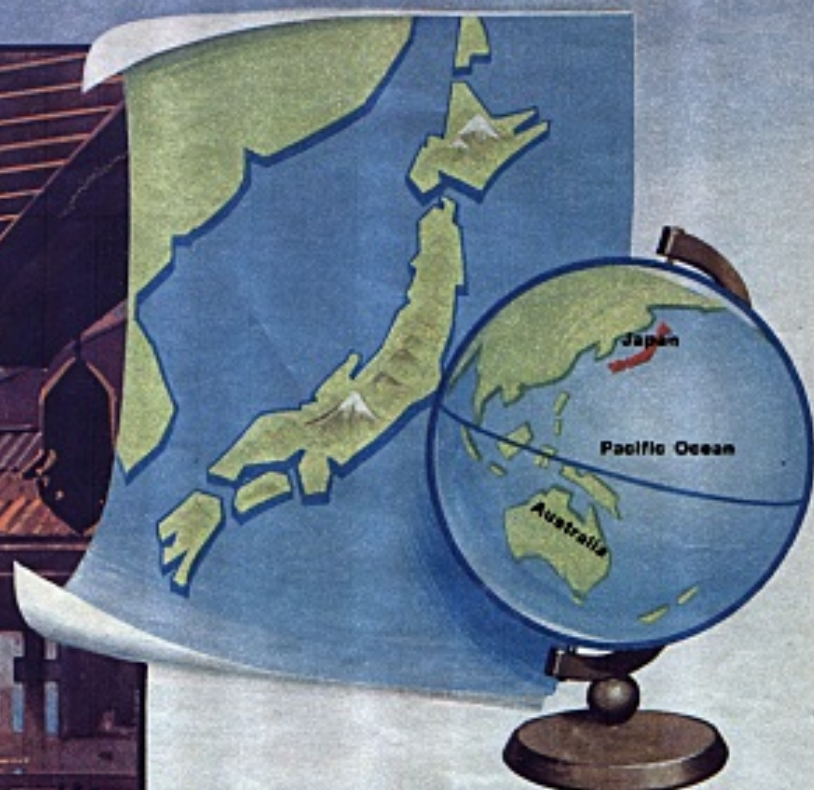
What will the magic mirror say? More of this lovely Snow White story next week.



6. Meanwhile, in the Royal Palace, the wicked Queen stood at an open window, looking out over the Kingdom. "Snow White will never be heard of again," she said. "Now it is certain that I am the fairest in all the land. There is no one else as beautiful as me—but just to make sure I will speak again to the magic mirror on the wall and hear its truthful answer."



Much visited by foreign tourists and the Japanese themselves are the ancient buildings, such as these in a place called Kyoto. They are built of wood and tiles and the Japanese are careful to keep them in good repair, exactly as they were first built.



Children of the World

Meet Taro and Yuki who live in

JAPAN

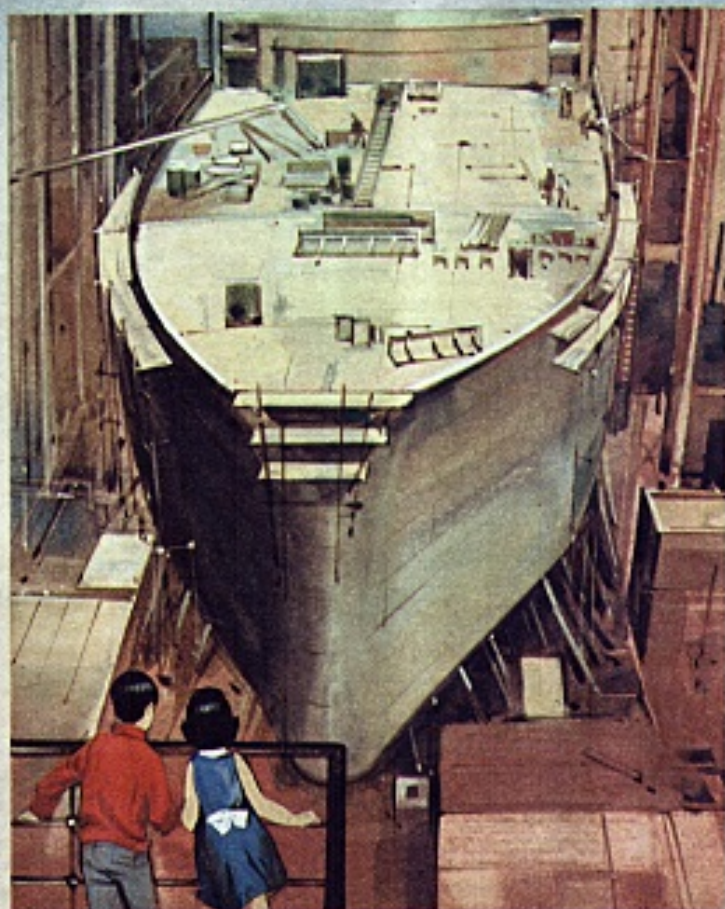
Japan is made up of many islands. There are about 3,000 in all, but only the largest are shown in the map above. On the globe you can see Japan's place in the world. In Japan, Taro is much liked as a name for a boy and Yuki for a girl. The family name of Taro and Yuki is Sato. They live in Tokyo, the capital city, in which more people live than in any other city in the world. Though Japan has become very modern, the people still like the old customs.



The Japanese grown-ups and children are fond of beautiful things, and they love flowers. Much time is spent in arranging flower displays and Yuki has been taught how to do this.

On the right Taro and Yuki are watching rice being planted. The young plants are pushed into the mud at the bottom of a flooded "paddy" field.





Japan is now famous for building ships and some of the biggest oil-tankers in the world have been launched from the shipyards. Taro is very excited as he takes his sister Yuki along to look at a monster ship being built on the slipway.

If you visit Japan you will see many of these strange gateways, either on land or in water. They are sacred gateways and in Japanese language are called "toru".



The picture on the right shows the Sato family at home in the evening with father, mother and the two children Taro and Yuki. It is then that they like to change their clothes to the old Japanese style of dress and they usually squat on mats on the floor to eat their meals or talk.



It's fun for the children as they stroll round a Tokyo side-street.







BRER RABBIT

The giant yummy fish. By Barbara Hayes.

NOW back in the old days, before Brer Bear and Brer Fox and Brer Wolf had got a taste for rabbit stew and before Brer Rabbit had played too many of his tricks, the animals were all mighty friendly, one with another.

They used to spend all of their time together and had lots of fun playing and exploring the woods and fields around them.

And one fine, hot summer day they all set out together for a picnic by the river.

They took a hamper of the finest food and drink with them, and when they found a shady spot by the river they settled down to playing games and enjoying themselves.

But as they were playing they fell to talking and Brer Bear said, "You know, I have been thinking things over and it seems to me that the person who is the biggest needs the biggest amount of food to keep him going. So it is only right that I should have the biggest share of goodies in the picnic hamper. I'm sure you will all agree to this."

Then Brer Wolf, who was almost as big as Brer Bear, said: "What a clever idea. Why should you and I, who are so much bigger, eat the same as the small animals? You will have the very biggest share, Brer Bear, and I will have the next biggest share."

Then Brer Fox spoke up. He didn't dare argue with Brer Bear and Brer Wolf, but he looked at little Brer Rabbit and he said: "Well, I don't know what the rest of you are having, but I do know that I deserve to have twice as much as Brer Rabbit here."

Now, Brer Rabbit could see from the way things were going, that unless he did some very quick thinking, he would have practically nothing to eat at all. And he felt very, very hungry.

So he smiled and said: "Of course, you big fellows deserve more to eat than little me. In fact I think you are the very fellows who deserve to eat the giant yummy fish, that live just at the bottom of the river here."

"What are the giant yummy fish, Brer Rabbit?" enquired Brer Bear.

Brer Rabbit saw that he had got them interested.

"Haven't you ever heard of the giant yummy fish?" asked Brer Rabbit, pretending to be astonished. "I thought everyone had heard of them. They live at the bottom of this river. They are big and delicious and they swim round all ready cooked, but they can only be caught and eaten by animals who are big and brave. And another thing, they have to be eaten under water. If you try to bring them out of the water, they just plumb disappear."

"A lion I knew used to eat them all the time. He said they were the tastiest things in the whole wide world."

"Of course, I am not big and brave, but you are big and brave, aren't you Brer Bear?"

Of course, Brer Bear had to say yes.

"And you are big and brave, aren't you, Brer Wolf?"

Of course, Brer Wolf had to say yes.

"And you are big and brave, aren't you, Brer Fox?"

Of course, Brer Fox had to say yes.

"Then dive down and eat the giant yummy fish," smiled Brer Rabbit. "You will soon know if you are really big and brave, because if you aren't big and brave, then the giant yummy fish won't let you catch them."

Splash! Splash! Splash!

Into the river dived Brer Bear and Brer Wolf and Brer Fox. Under the water they swam, but, of course, they couldn't find any giant yummy fish anywhere, because

there weren't any. Brer Rabbit had made the story up.

But every time Brer Bear or Brer Wolf or Brer Fox came up for air, Brer Rabbit called: "Have you eaten any giant yummy fish?"

And, of course, Brer Bear and Brer Wolf and Brer Fox replied "Yes", because they didn't want it to seem that they weren't big and brave.

At last Brer Bear and Brer Wolf and Brer Fox crawled ashore, tired out and hungry.

Meanwhile, Brer Rabbit had opened the picnic hamper and eaten all the food himself.

"You three are too full of giant yummy fish to want any of this old picnic," he smiled.

And, of course, the other animals were far too proud to say that they hadn't eaten anything.

Isn't that Brer Rabbit a scamp? He had the last laugh that time, didn't he?

There will be another Brer Rabbit story next week.

BRER RABBIT'S RIDDLES

1. What is taken before you get it?
2. Why does your Mummy have exciting times when cooking?
3. What is the difference between a bad sleeper and a butcher?
4. What is the worst weather for mice and rats?
5. When he built the Ark, where did Noah strike the first nail?

ANSWERS:

1. Your photograph; 2. Because she has some stirring moments; 3. One stays awake and the other weighs a steak; 4. When it rains cats and dogs; 5. On the head.

The Wild Man of the woods

In Borneo, the name "orang-utan" means "man of the woods". These interesting creatures, although not as intelligent as chimpanzees, are very human in their behaviour. One of the small pictures shows a baby orang-utan holding a leaf over its head to keep off the hot sun.



The orang-utan has a body covered with long, reddish-brown hair. Its legs are short, but its arms are long and can easily reach out for branches as it swings through the trees of the swampy forest in which the orang-utan lives. This "man of the woods" is not really wild in the sense that it is bad-tempered, but if it is attacked it can be a fierce fighter. At sunset, the orang-utan family goes to rest in nests in the trees. They like to feed on fruit and young plant-shoots that are juicy and tender. When next you visit a zoo, have a good look at the orang-utans. A fully-grown one stands about four and a half feet high, but with arms stretched it can reach up to a height of seven feet or more.

LESLIE
FIELD
MARCHANT

Well, Fancy That!



Do you know why this type of horse is called a "pinto"? These splendid animals look as if they have been splashed with black or brown paint on white—and "pinto" is a Spanish word for "paint". Pintos come from countries like Mexico and Argentina, where Spanish is the language spoken.



This magnificent bird is called a kite. Long ago, it was forbidden to kill kites because they kept the streets clean by eating thrown-away rubbish.



Cleopatra, Queen of Egypt, was not an Egyptian—she was a Greek. Our picture shows her first meeting with Mark Antony, a great Roman general.

This is a Memory Test. When you have read the story, turn to page 16 and test your memory by trying to answer the questions you will find there.

Aylesford Bridge

DO you know much about the county of Kent? It is in the south-east corner of England and if you stand on the white cliffs of Dover you will be at your nearest point to France, only about 22 miles away across the English Channel.

Visitors to Kent, like Roger and his elder sister Juliet, find that there are many lovely places they can see on horseback. Roger, who likes to show off a little, said to Juliet at breakfast one morning:

"What's the difference between a man of Kent and a Kentish man?"

"No difference at all that I can think of," Juliet answered after thinking for a few moments. "They're both the same."

"Oh, no they are not," smiled Roger. "A man of Kent is someone born to the east of the River Medway, and a Kentish man is a man who lives in west Kent."

"That's something I didn't know," said Juliet. "But it gives me an idea. Why don't we take a ride and find the River Medway? As a matter of fact, I've been looking at a map and there is a place called Aylesford on the banks of the river, only a little more than three miles from Maidstone."

They set off. It was a pleasant, warm day and both Roger and Juliet were delighted with what they saw when they reached the red-roofed village of Aylesford.

Above the red roofs they could see a church with a square tower, but what caught their eye most was the sight of a bridge over the River Medway.

"It's got a lovely, long central arch," said Roger, "and if you ask me, I'd say it was fairly old."

"And you would be right," nodded Juliet, who had been having a sly peep at a small guide-book she carried in her pocket. "Now it's my turn to tell YOU something. Aylesford Bridge was actually built in the 14th century, which makes it at least 600 years old."

They sat in their saddles looking at the famous old bridge, while Juliet's pony crunched the sweet grass on the river bank, and a proud swan sailed by on the water with three cygnet babies playing follow-my-leader behind her.

That visit to Aylesford Bridge was something Roger and Juliet enjoyed very much.





The talking Bluebird



1. One day, while riding through a wood, a young man came upon a bluebird caught in a trap-net and he gently released it. To his surprise he heard the bluebird say, "For your goodness of heart, you are now able to understand the language of animals."



2. Greatly wondering, he went on through the woods. "Another poor traveller who will be robbed by those bandits waiting ahead," said a voice. Looking up, he saw two squirrels chatting as they shared a nut. "How lucky I can understand," he said.



3. So he took another path through the trees, until he was well past the spot where the robbers were hiding. "This gift of mine is worth something," he thought. Then he saw a fine lady riding along with her maid. "Stop, my lady!" he shouted.



4. He tried to warn her of the danger ahead, but the proud and beautiful lady turned him away. "How dare you speak to me, you ruffian?" she said. "I am the Countess Barbara and I do not speak to common folk." This made the young man very angry.



5. "Just as you wish, Countess," he said. But he followed the riders at a distance, for he could not let them face the robbers alone. After a while, however, the Countess saw him. "Go away at once," she snapped.



6. At that very moment the robbers sprang out of hiding. There were three of them and the Countess was very frightened. However, the young man urged his horse towards them with such loud cries that the robbers thought he was leading a dozen armed men.



7. As the robbers turned and fled, Countess Barbara swallowed all her pride. "Brave and gallant young man," she said. "You must come with me to my father's castle, where you will be received with all honour."



8. So the young man was given the post of bodyguard to the fair countess. Later they fell in love and were married—and they were the only two who ever knew that the young man could understand the speech of animals. Apart from the bluebird, that is.



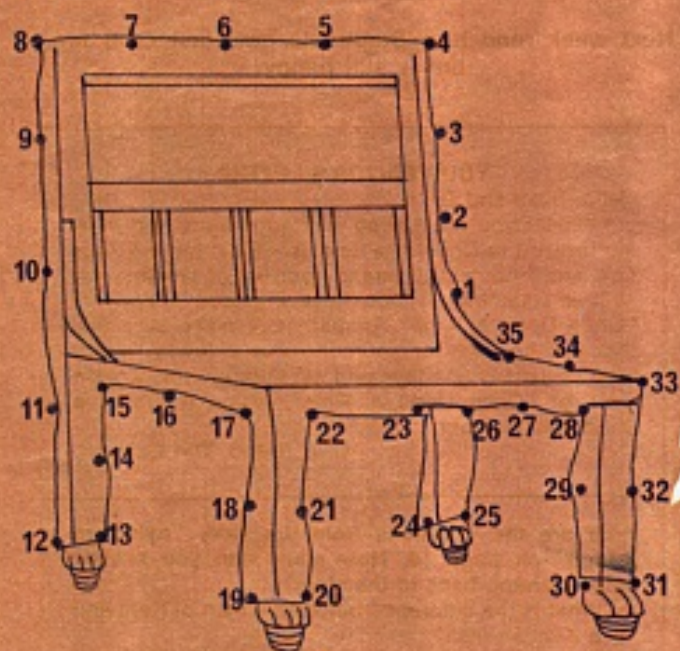
Beautiful Paintings

The title of this lovely picture, which was painted by artist David Teniers, is "Fiesta at Luganeros". It shows a happy scene in a Spanish village, where all the people—lords, ladies and peasants—have gathered together for a day of dancing and feasting, perhaps to celebrate a good harvest of grapes for the making of wine. It would make a delightful picture for your scrapbook or to hang on a wall. The painting itself hangs in the Prado Museum in Madrid, the capital of Spain.

Egyptian Lady

In the olden days, even about three thousand years ago, the Egyptians were clever enough to grow their own cotton for spinning into cloth. The women liked to wear jewellery and make-up, as you can see in this picture of a rich Egyptian lady. She is holding in her hands a large pottery jar, which was used sometimes for carrying sweet-scented oil.

Complete the puzzle picture on the left by starting at number 1 and drawing careful lines from one number to the next. You will draw a container used for holding an Egyptian lady's eye-shadow.



Start again at Number 1 and complete the picture above to draw a lovely chair made of boxwood and ebony.





The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse

This week's story—A Nice Log Fire. By Barbara Hayes.

It was getting towards Christmas in the town where Stephanie, the town mouse, lived. Stephanie—or Steve, as she called herself in town—was wondering what she could do to make her Christmas party that much better than anyone else's.

"I know my dress is prettier than anyone else's," she said. "And I know the food I have ordered is better. But everyone is used to my food and clothes being better than theirs. What else can I do to make it clear that I am the best mouse in town?"

Stephanie's boy-friend, Nigel, thought for a moment, then he said:

"Well, Stevie, old thing, when I was a young mouse, the nicest thing about Christmas always seemed to be the lovely log fires we used to have. Nowadays people have coal fires or gas fires and they're very nice I'm sure, but somehow they haven't the sparkle of a log fire."

Stephanie was so pleased that she quite forgot to grumble at Nigel for calling her "old thing". She always preferred to be called "young thing", you see.

"Nigel! Do you know that for a blockhead, sometimes you are quite clever," laughed Stephanie. "I will get some logs at once."

But, as Stephanie was to discover, getting in a big supply of logs, in the middle of town, just when the cold weather was starting was not easy.

"There is only one thing to do. I shall have to go out into the country to see my country cousin, Winifred. It must be easy to get logs in the country—they've got trees all over the place out there. And, after all, trees are just logs still joined together."

So Nigel got out his fine car and drove Stephanie out to see her country cousin, Winifred.

Tootle-toot-toot!

Nigel sounded his horn as they drew up outside Winifred's little cottage.

In a moment Winifred came bustling out, wiping flour from her hands on to her apron.

"Heavens! She's at her never-ending cake making again," sneered Stephanie, "and you just listen, Nigel, I bet you that the second she's said hello, she'll ask us if we want a nice cup of tea."

By this time Winifred had pattered up to the car.

"Why, if it isn't our Stephanie and her Nigel!" smiled kind Winifred. "How nice to see you both. Would you like to come in and have a nice cup of tea?"

"Oh really, Winifred," snorted Stephanie. "Don't you ever think of anything but choking people with your boring cups of tea? I suppose next you will want to make us gulp down some of your fattening home-made cakes?"

Stephanie was always very rude about Winifred's homely ways.

But Nigel said: "Thank you, Winifred, I should like a cup of tea and some cakes, please."

So all the mice went indoors and anyone who was looking closely would have noticed that Stephanie ate as many cakes as anyone else.

It was just as they were finishing tea that the mice heard a plod, plod, squeak, squelch—plod, plod, squeak, squelch.

They looked out of the window and saw Bertie plodding along, pushing a squeaking wooden cart through the squelchy snow—and piled on top of the cart were lots and lots of lovely wooden logs.

Just the sort that would burn up into a crackling blazing fire.

"Look!" squeaked Stephanie in a very pleased voice. "Logs! Who would have thought that a country bumpkin like Bertie could have brought me exactly what I wanted at exactly the right time."

Bertie was annoyed.

"No one would have thought it, because I haven't," he grunted. "These logs are for my Winifred, because she doesn't call me a country bumpkin!"

Next week read how Stephanie gets just ONE log, but is still happy.

YOUR EDITOR'S LETTER

Hello, Boys and Girls,

I expect you are feeling excited like me and looking forward to Christmas time. It will not be very long now and I hope that among your list of presents for your special friends you have included a copy of "Once Upon A Time" Annual. (But make sure first that you get one for yourself—it is a lovely book.) Now I must say goodbye and get busy on next week's issue of "Once Upon A Time", which will be the Christmas Number.

Your friend, The Editor.

Here are the questions from the story "Aylesford Bridge" on page 10. How many can you answer before turning back to the story?

1. What is the difference between a man of Kent and a Kentish man?
2. How far away from France is Kent, at its nearest point?
3. In what century was Aylesford Bridge built?
4. What is the name given to baby swans?



ALI BABA and the Forty Thieves



1. Trapped inside the treasure cave of the Forty Thieves, Ali Baba's greedy brother Cassim tried again and again to remember the magic words Ali Baba had told him—the only words which had the power to open the door of solid rock.

2. But nothing Cassim said made the great door even start to open. There was no other way out of the robbers' cave and Cassim knew that he was a hopeless prisoner. "Open! Open! Please open!" he wept, beating his fists against the rock.



3. Not knowing that anyone had discovered their secret, the Forty Thieves were returning to the cave. With them they brought much gold, which they had gained by robbing rich merchants. They planned to put it in the cave with the rest.



4. But when they reached the spot they saw Cassim's mules with empty baskets. "What means this?" roared the robber chief. "Can it be that someone is within the cave? If that is so, whoever has learned our secret will not pass it on."



5. "Open, Sesame!" the robber chief commanded. These were the magic words Cassim had failed to remember. The great door opened and Cassim was revealed inside the cave. He trembled with fright as the eyes of the forty thieves fixed upon him.



6. Cassim had not returned home by the following day, so his anxious wife went to Ali Baba and confessed that her greedy husband had gone to the secret cave, intending to load mules with gold. "Please find out what has happened to him," she asked.



7. Ali Baba had a kind heart and though he was unhappy to learn of his brother's greed, he promised to help. And so he once again set off with his donkey for the cave of the Forty Thieves. "If Cassim is there I will find him," he said.



8. Ali Baba searched the great rock but there was no sign of Cassim. "Perhaps I should look inside the cave," he thought. As the robber chief had done, he faced the wall of rock. "Open, Sesame!" he said firmly, and the rock began to open.

What will be revealed to Ali Baba in the secret cave? More of this exciting story next week.



The WISE OLD OWL

Knows all the answers

Interesting answers to puzzling questions asked by children (and their parents, too).



1. What is an Angel Fish?

"Angel fish live in rivers in some hot countries where the water is warm. They have large, colourful fins which are so beautiful that people think they are like the wings of angels. There are several kinds of angel fish and some of them can be kept in a heated aquarium at home."



2. What is a Coat of Arms?

"A coat of arms is a badge belonging to a noble family or city. It dates back to the days when a knight in armour carried his badge, or 'arms' as it was then called, on his shield or on a long coat worn over his armour, so that he could be known at once to other people. Schools also often have a coat of arms."



4. What is a battlement?

"If you look at the top of a castle wall, you will see that it is often shaped like a row of teeth. In olden days, if the castle was attacked, the defenders would stand for protection behind these 'teeth', or battlements, and shoot their arrows down through the slits at the enemy on the ground below."



3. Why does a doctor put a thermometer in my mouth?

"The glass thermometer which the doctor puts under your tongue when you are not feeling well measures the temperature, or heat, of your body. The doctor needs to know if the heat of your body is too high or too low. This helps him to find out what is wrong with you and why you are not feeling well."



5. Is there such a place as the Dead Sea?

"Yes, there is, although what is called the Dead Sea is really a large lake. It is in desert country between Israel and Jordan. The Dead Sea is so salty that neither fish nor weeds can live in its waters, and that is how it got its name. If you went for a swim in such salty water you would float very easily."